

REMARKS

The above Amendment and the following remarks are responsive to prior art rejections in the final Office Action dated May 31, 2006. The Applicant requests entry of this Amendment, favorable reconsideration of this case, and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Status of the Claims

Upon entry of this Amendment, the Applicant has rewritten claims 1, 3-4, 6-9, 18, 20, 22-24, 27 and 30-34. Thus, claims 1-4, 6-18 and 20-34 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 10, 18, 23, 24, 27, 30, 31, 32 and 34 are independent claims.

Correction of Minor Typographical Errors

The Applicant amended claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 20, 22 and 33 to correct minor typographical errors discovered during review of the claims. Since these amendments merely correct typographical errors, the Applicant does not believe that these amendments constitute new matter.

Examiner Interview

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner, the Examiner's replacement, Farzana Hossain, and the Examiner's supervisor, Chris Grant, for conducting an Examiner Interview on July 13, 2006. During the Examiner Interview, we discussed claim 1, Figure 5, and the Bejan et al. prior art reference. The Applicant also explained the variable scene concept in the claims by demonstrating excerpts from a 30-minute TV show. The Examiner, the Examiner's replacement, and the Examiner's supervisor agreed that the proposed amendment to claim 1 "appears to overcome the current prior art rejection, however the proposed amendment would require further search and consideration."

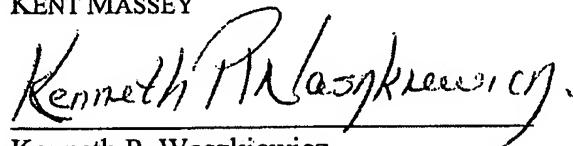
Application is in Condition for Allowance

The amendments to independent claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 18, 23, 24, 27, 30, 31, 32 and 34 made by this Amendment are consistent with the proposed amendment to claim 1 discussed during the recent Examiner Interview. The presently claimed invention include the recitation of limitations that a variation scene presented to a viewer after a linking scene reflects the consequences of the viewer selecting one of the alternative decisions before the linking scene. Thus, the presently claimed invention overcomes the current prior art rejections and is in condition for allowance.

AUTHORIZATION

The undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge all required fees, fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, or all required extension of time fees for this paper to Deposit Account Number 50-0573.

Respectfully submitted,
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